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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 15 | Humidity 85% Fog/mist in the morning and partly cloudy sky later Sensex 60,621 | Nifty 18,027 | Gold 57,160 | Silver 74,500 | Dollar 81.12 | Euro 87.80 | GBP 100.12

CITY / PAGE 7

DO YOU CARE FOR THEM TREES?

The axe could not care less...

CITY / PAGE 9

STATE BUDGET

What's in it for children: Demands list

Civic body either delays beautification of vacant spaces beneath flyovers or conveniently forgets about such spaces after beautifying them

WHAT LIES BENEATH

'Spaces below flyovers on Mysuru Road, Richmond Road and in Benniganahalli need upkeep'

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been spending a lot of money to beautify the vacant spaces below flyovers constructed at different locations in the city.

Though it is difficult for the BBMP to beautify the vacant spaces below all the flyovers in the city, the civic body has either delayed the beautification of vacant spaces below the flyovers or conveniently forgotten about the spaces after beautifying them.

It was rumoured that the BBMP authorities want to construct a basketball court or a skating rink below the flyover at Sivananda Circle. Many people questioned the BBMP's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

The construction work came to a grinding halt under Sivananda Circle Flyover

Twin lakes miss birds

Winged visitors keep away from at least two more lakes in Bengaluru

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The migratory season is here. But the list of Bengaluru lakes that the birds are steering clear of keeps growing. It appears the winged visitors have decided to keep away from at least two more lakes in the city.

Chinnapanahalli Lake and Munnekolala Lake in AECS Layout near KR Puram have been brushed aside by the birds this season.

According to residents of the area, the twin lakes located very close to each other were home to many migratory birds up until the last season.

"People have documented around 50 different types of migratory birds that used to visit Munnekolala Lake. Even last year, we got pelicans, painted storks, grey herons, and many other big birds visiting the water-body between December and March. However, it's mid-January; not even a single bird has been spotted so far," said Sajin Kunhambu, a resident of the area.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

A flu for all seasons

Doctors say that flu cases have increased recently; children most affected

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If the last three years were all about covid, this time, the last three months have been mostly about people suffering from the flu.

Health professionals say they have come across two to three waves of flu and -- unlike the previous years -- there has recently been a surge in the respiratory viruses (flu) and Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), which can cause pneumonia in infants.

While the flu can impact any age group, it is the children who are the most infected. Apart from RSV, there has been a rise in cases of Influenza A, B and H1N1 amongst the paediatric population. While weather can play a significant factor in the increase in flu cases, health professionals say that it could also be genetic change, where the virulence of the virus has changed.

Dr Yogesh Kumar Gupta, consultant-paediatrics, Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, said, "One reason for the increase in cases of flu could be the impact of Covid on our immunity. The reason why the last few years did not see much of flu infections could be due to the lockdowns where there was less interaction and crowding. This may have allowed the virus to change its genetic makeup and change the virulence. Also, the unpredictable weather could be a reason why we are seeing around 30-50 respiratory cases daily."

According to Dr Rajath Athreya, Senior Consultant and HOD, Paediatrics and Neonatology, Sakra World Hospital, Bengaluru, in the last 3-4 months, they have also had two - three waves of flu. There were many cases in December and after a short gap, numbers have again shot up.

He added that one to two cases of every child with fever admitted to the OPD in the last few days has had influenza (most of the severe ones are tested and they are diagnosed with Influenza A. A small percentage (<10 per cent) are getting hospitalised and are making quick recovery

Influenza A is said to be the common seasonal flu but nowadays, type B has also been on an increase, stated the doctors.

Dr Parimala V Thirumalesh, Sr Consultant- Neonatology & Paediatrics, Aster CMI Hospital, said, "The peak month for influenza cases is generally December, but this year the tendency has extended up to January. At least 20–22 of the 30 children tested positive for influenza, and some of them are being admitted to the hospital since they also have moderate signs of pneumonia. High fever, shivers, a congestion, runny nose, difficulty breathing, extreme fatigue, and diarrhoea are some of the signs of influenza. Patients continue to complain of a cold and a cough even after the fever has subsided. Getting vaccinated is the best defence against influenza to lessen complications. The dose must be taken only once a year."

Doctors say that children show mask up to stay away from any respiratory infections, follow cough etiquette and use hand sanitisers. In terms of treatment, Dr Athreya said, "Treatment is supportive care -- we treat fevers, keep children well hydrated and if we get to see them within first few days of illness, a specific antiviral medication 'Oseltamivir' is used to reduce severity and duration of illness."

"The unpredictable weather could be a reason why we are seeing around 30-50 respiratory cases daily – Dr Yogesh Kumar Gupta, Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Groove it!

Lulu Mall, Bengaluru is all set to present a rocking live performance of the Vasu Dixit Collective featuring Gubbi on Saturday. Vasu is well-loved in Namma Bengaluru for his open-throated voice, rich vocal style, wide range, and deep passion for his craft. Featuring in the Vasu Dixit Collective is Karthik Sundar Gubbi, better known by his stage name "Gubbi". He is the first Kannada rapper to use Kannada literature in his lyrics. Gubbi has created his own signature style of Kannada-English rap. **Where: Lulu Mall When: January 21, 6 pm**

02 A fresh cut!

SOCIAL presents 'Fresh Cut', an all-day-art-fête, featuring contemporary visual artists. Gear up for the very 1st edition in Bangalore this Sunday! The scope of its operations is over a long-term timeline, evolving the scale of its activities while forming an identity synonymous with that of showcasing exceptional content generated by phenomenal, homegrown artists. **Where: Church Street SOCIAL; When: Jan 22, 2pm onwards; Register: insider.in**

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Kanva scam: Victims wait long for justice

Nearly 23,000 citizens became victims of Kanva scam in 2019, most of them are senior citizens

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

It's been over three years since the Kanva scam came to light back in 2019, yet the victims are still struggling to get justice for the Rs 500 crore plus scam in which nearly 23,000 victims had to face the brunt.

The victims pointed out that most of them had invested all their savings and have nowhere to go with no returns now.

The Kanva Scam's Claimants Forum members have been running helter-skelter to government offices and have even protested in the past to get justice. However, only assurances and nothing else are being carried out on ground.

According to the members, the higher authorities should execute the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors (KPID). They also alleged that there has been a constant delay and many victims are just left suffering.

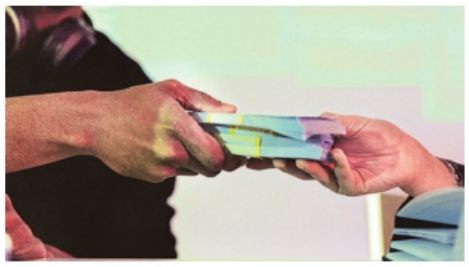
Dr Muralidhar Lakkanna, administrator of Kanva Scam's Claimants Forum said, "We have carried out various campaigns, complaints and protests, but nothing has worked. No authority has taken the initiative to help us out. I had invested Rs 15 lakhs from 2016-2018 and did not get any return."

He added that when he invested, he was told that he would get double the return after six years, but then he lost all the money.

"What is the point if the government does not come forward to help? Most of them who had invested were senior citizens. They invested all their savings and have nowhere to go now," he explained.

On Friday over 100 people met the Jayanagar MLA Sowmya Reddy to seek justice. The members of the forum have decided to rope in all the MLAs and MPs to get justice.

A few days ago the Cooperation Minister ST Somashekar stated that he would request the Centre or order a CBI probe into irregularities in the function of Gururaghvendra Cooperative Bank and Vasista Cooperative Bank. However, no mention was made about the Kanva scam, added the members.



The fraudulent company had promised to pay double the invested amount

> **We have carried out various campaigns, complaints and protests, but nothing has worked. No authority has taken the initiative to help us out**
>
> –Muralidhar Lakkanna, a victim

As many people had gathered, Sowmya Reddy spoke to Somashekar about including the Kanva scam and he assured of including it for the CBI probe.

"I'm a retired employee of a leading watch factory in Tumakuru. I invested over Rs 10.5 lakhs of my savings, which I had through benefits after retirement and from breaking my fixed deposit(FD) account. All of it went to waste," said Andrew, another victim.

In Karnataka, people from various places like Chikkaballapur, Ramnagar, Ballari, Badravathi, Hosakote, Kamanhalli, Yelhanka, Vijaynagara, Vidyaranyapura, Kalaburgi, Rajajinagar, Dasarahalli, Kengeri, Basaveshwaranagara and more had invested in the fraudulent company.

BBMP's unfair tax notices

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had served tax notices two years ago, slapping penalties and interests running into tens of thousands to lakhs of rupees on almost over one lakh citizens.

The BBMP referred to a zone reclassification done in 2016, which was neither publicised nor implemented properly. After a lot of backlash from citizens, including a massive protest led by the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP), the state government and BBMP assured citizens that the issue would be resolved soon.

However, the BBMP authorities have not taken any initiative to issue a clarification on the issue even after two years.

"The BBMP authorities assured me that the penalty and interest amount on the property tax would be cancelled. I paid the difference in the property tax. However, the penalty and interest amount is being accumulated against my property tax on the BBMP's website. I did not pay the interest amount as the BBMP authorities asked me to waive it," said Sreenath, a resident of JP Nagar.

Meantime, interest continues to mount for citizens who have been waiting for a decision from the government.

> **The BBMP authorities assured me that the penalty and interest on property tax would be cancelled. Therefore, I did not pay the interest**
>
> –Sreenath, a resident of JP Nagar

It is estimated that the BBMP served tax notices to around 78,000 citizens in 2021. Since then, the fight for resolution has been underway.

According to Lalithamba, a leader of BNP, the party demands the BBMP to stop adding interest and penalties, and the government to issue a notification immediately to provide clarity to the citizens on this matter.

"The process by which the notices were served had serious shortcomings that are fundamental in nature, like not publicising the notification, not giving alerts to consumers at the time of payment, and no automatic classification of properties and notices being served after five years," she explained.

Meanwhile, the BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue) told BM that a decision has been taken not to collect the penalty from the property owners who received the notices from the BBMP.

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Magadi–Mysuru connectivity boost

BDA to fast track project to connect these two roads, stretch being constructed will be 10.57 km-long

Connectivity between Magadi and Mysuru roads will get a big boost as Bangalore Development Authority has decided to fast track an important project. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is constructing a 10.57 km-long stretch connecting the two roads. The road will be of 100 metres wide with service roads and boulevards on either side for connecting the layouts. Smart street lighting has been proposed for energy saving and effective lighting. The project will also help locals connect to areas like Seegehalli, Kodigehalli, Kannelli, Manganahalli, Kenchanapura, Sulikere, Ramasandra, Kommaghatta, Kommaghatta Krishnasagara, Bheemankuppe, Challaghatta, and Bheemanakuppe Ramasagara villages.

Top micro-markets

Meanwhile, many areas in the city are in high demand. The top three micro-markets with the highest supply in Bengaluru were Sarjapur Road, Whitefield, and Bommasandra. According to ANAROCK data, these three markets saw a combined new supply of approximately 14,415 units in the first nine months of 2022. Sarjapur Road has seen 9,096 units being launched with a 23 per cent hike in the last five years. Whiefield has seen 3,407 units being launched with a 21 per cent price range, and Bommasandra, 1,912 units with 18 per cent change in prices. In fact, various micro-markets across the top seven cities in the country saw significant activity in terms of new launches and housing sales.

Anuj Puri, Chairman of ANAROCK Group, said, "2022 was a phenomenal year for the real estate sector, particularly the residential segment. There was robust housing demand, mainly from end-users, across the top cities and tier two and three cities. In the year's first half, job security had improved vis-a-vis the uncertain pandemic period. There was robust hiring in the IT/ITeS sector although the second half brought more sobering news on this front. Financial services showed a good hiring graph throughout."

The report further said that low home loan rates and steadily growing homeownership sentiments also helped residential real estate gain and maintain momentum. "Going by housing sales, currently and in the first three quarters this year, 2022 will have breached the previous peak of 2014 with all-time high sales across the top seven cities. The latest ANAROCK data projects total sales in the top seven cities to exceed 3.6 lakh units in 2022 (in 2014, the previous peak year, 3.43 lakh units were sold.) We expect the final data for the last quarter of 2022 to bear this out once it is collated," the report added.

The January-September period already saw housing sales and new launches surpass the full-year readings of 2019 with approximately 2.73 lakh units being sold in 9M 2022 and new launches at 2.65 lakh units. Around 2.61 lakh units were sold in 2019, with new supply in that year at 2.34 lakh units, the report further said.

–Prakash VL

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Reduce your home loan tenure

Here are two reasons why you must revisit your home loan periodically, and in the process reduce your tenure too—ultimately saving on your interest payout as well.

1) Timely planning

"To stay on top of things and not miss any EMIs, homebuyers often opt for autopay mode so that the EMIs keep getting deducted every month. However, I believe one must revisit the home loan immediately. Ask your bank to give you the amortisation schedule and know the breakup of your payments for the remainder of your tenure," suggests Gerald Manoharan, partner at J Sagar Associates.

2) Prepayment

To reduce your tenure, Mohit Ramsinghani, chief sales officer of a leading real estate company, advises that one must not get too comfortable with the EMI, but actively look for ways to save money and pay off the loan early. Ramsinghani says, "An individual's income keeps on growing every year. Also, one gets surplus income through bonuses, incentives, and perks. One needs to utilise these hikes and make a proper plan to prepay the loan."

–Times Property

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Leaning trees of HBR Layout

'They don't need to be chopped off, maintain them,' residents remind BBMP

| Melvin Mathew
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@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

There are marks on these trees from vehicles bumping into them frequently while making a turn

After a spate of accidents, residents of HBR Layout have complained about avenue trees leaning onto the road and the negligence of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) forest wing in this regard. They say they had made representations to the nodal officer in the ward committee a year ago.

Just a week back, Bengaluru was shaken by an incident involving a metro pillar falling on motorists in the area. Locals said adequate steps could have prevented many mishaps. Quite near the location of the accident, another mishap is waiting to happen, they told Bangalore Mirror. They also said that their complaints have fallen on deaf ears.

All along 1st cross in 5th block, in HBR Layout, there are avenue trees, some of which are leaning. At the intersection of 1st cross and 8th main road is a tree that poses great difficulty to motorists. Commuters turning from 8th main road to 1st cross have to be extra cautious. While two-wheelers go under/around the leaning tree, some other vehicles struggle to pass through. The struggle is evident on the tree barks where parts have chipped off.

While trees must be protected, some dangerous trees must be trimmed and maintained. With citizens not having permission to do so, they are left at the mercy of BBMP officials.

HBR Layout general secretary Prasanna said, "We have been following up with BBMP for almost a year for pruning these trees. Action is only taken in cases of fallen or just-about-to-fall trees. The tree in question has marks on it from vehicles passing through it. Some of the motorists don't even see the tree in the middle of the road. Tempos, autos, minivans, and trucks bump into it." A 68-year-old resident said that the stretch is a death knell. The positioning of the tree is very dangerous and several accidents have already taken place, said Venkatesh Halati.

If motorists come into contact, it can be fatal, he said, adding that the agency should attend to this long-pending problem.

Another resident said that vehicles are getting damaged due to contact. "Some trees on this stretch have dried up and vehicles keep bumping into them. Officials make many promises , but no action is taken," said KR Gupta.

Residents said that there is also a risk of old trees and untrimmed branches falling on people. In one case, a huge branch fell on the road, just missing a passer-by. "The top part of the tree has dried and keeps falling. It's risky for children to play in the area," said a local.

> **"We have been following up with BBMP for almost a year for pruning these trees**
> - Prasanna, HBR Layout general secretary

Bharati, also a resident, said that they managed to get the tree trimmed after a lot of effort, but officials have not disposed of the axed pieces for over two years now.

However, BBMP officials claim that they have not received any applications. "We request the residents to write a letter to the Deputy Conservator of Forests and share photos of the trees involved," said a senior BBMP forest official.

Prayers answered in Kaggadasapura main road

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Silt being removed from roadside drains in the area; pending work in this stretch is expected to be completed in the next 20 days

Commuting on Kaggadasapura main road had been a hassle for years as it was not wide enough. The road was also known for waterlogging. However, all these problems could be history in 20 days.

Residents of Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Balaji Layout, Kaggadasapura, and nearby areas recalled how difficult it was for the motorists to commute on this road. "My wife got injured while walking on this road more than a decade ago. It was a 10 feet road back then. Now, the road's width has increased by another 10 feet. We are very happy with the widening work," said Bhuvaneshwari Nagar Residents Welfare Association secretary Narahari MN.

Welcoming the ongoing development of roadside drains, Balaji Layout Residents' Welfare Association president Ramesh G P said, "Commuting on this road will be hassle-free if the ongoing drain work is completed. Residents are happy with the widening and asphalting."

Numerous people commute on this road that connects Vignananagar and Nagavara Palya to proceed towards HAL Airport Road and Old Madras Road. The road hit the headlines when three people died due to suffocation while cleaning a manhole in March 2017. "There is no need to dig up for laying underground drainage pipes as the BWSSB replaced old UGD pipes with new ones five years ago. We want BBMP authorities to complete the ongoing drain work and asphalt the remaining portion of the road as early as possible," said a resident of the area.

Meanwhile, BBMP assistant executive engineer Mallinath Malkapur said asphalting of the road is almost done. "We will asphalt the remaining portion of the road as soon as the drain work is completed," he said. BBMP assistant engineer (storm water drains) Vikrant said the construction of the roadside drains was supposed to be completed in December, but got delayed due to the strike by quarry owners. He expects the pending work to be completed in 20 days. Drain work is pending for around 180 metres.

He said water logging or flooding on the road would not happen in future as the drains under construction are wide enough to carry rain water to the main stormwater drain. "The drain development has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore. We have engaged a contractor to remove silt from the roadside drain," he said. Many roadside vendors, including Gowramma K, a flower vendor, want BBMP to complete drain work soon.

CV Raman Nagar MLA S Raghu said it would be completed shortly and asphalting of a stretch would be taken up too.

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Problems in your area?
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Commuters troubled

Basavanagudi

Construction work at the conservancy road behind BMS women's college, Basavanagudi, has been going on since November 28, inconveniencing commuters.

Clean it up

Hall Road

A huge mound of tar has been lying on Hall Road for the past two years. Many complaints have been made in vain.

Finish the job

Manorayanapalya

BWSSB has dug up a stretch on 14th Cross, Sultanpalya Main Road, Manorayanapalya junction and left the spot without asphalting it.

You object? Well, the axe couldn't care less

Despite objections filed, panel gives nod to cut/translocate 800+ trees

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The axe is out, indeed, and the new year is spelling doom over Bengaluru's green cover. In two fresh orders issued by the Deputy Conservator of Forest of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara palike's (BBMP) Forest cell, the Tree Expert Committee has given permission to cut and translocate as many as 810 trees for various development and infrastructure projects.

The orders have been issued for a road widening project by Karnataka Road Development Corporation Ltd (KRDCL) and the construction of an elevated structure by the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL).

KRDCL had sought permission for clearance of 736 trees for improvement and widening of the road between Gunjur to Bellathur bridge. As per KRDCL, these trees are standing in the project area. In this regard, a public notice was issued by the tree officer and Deputy Conservator of Forest of BBMP's Forest cell in October last year, inviting objections and suggestions from the public on the project.

As per the official document, BBMP received an objection discouraging KRDCL to take up the project. "The objection filed by a citizen stated that road widening will not solve the traffic congestion issue and that KRDCL should reconsider it," said the document.

In response to the objection, the field forest officer and the Tree Expert Committee members also visited the site for inspection a month later. As per the official memorandum, the TEC, after examining all the 736 trees, has ordered the translocation and removal of 562. Of these, while 83 trees will be translocated, 480 have been recommended to be felled.

Bengalureans are fiercely protective of the city's green cover

In another memorandum issued by the BBMP, 248 trees standing between Doorvaninagar and Kempapura cross have been allowed to be cut by TEC for a BMRCL project. Only 14 trees out of the total number proposed by BMRCL will be retained on-site.

BMRCL had sought permission to remove 236 trees for the project. The tree officer and DCF of BBMP as per the Karnataka preservation of Tree Act 1976, issued a public notice in October last year, inviting objections. In response to the notice, an overwhelming number (96) of objections were received.

Notably, while the public notice was issued by the BMRCL seeking permission to remove 236 trees, the TEC's order talks about the removal and translocation of 248 trees. This was after 95 objections were filed by the public, including requests to conduct a walkthrough of the alignment of BMRCL's Airport Line.

Green activists say a majority of the trees currently being translocated or cut can be saved, given minor changes in the projects. "There is no point in following a process on paper. Tree massacre is being carried out unabated by various agencies in the name of development and TEC has not been effective in stopping it. A majority of these trees can be saved with minor tweaks in the projects. But, these options are not being considered. TEC is giving opinions in favor of the infrastructure facilities," said a city-based environmentalist.

> **"Tree massacre is being carried out in the city unabated by various agencies in the name of development and TEC has not been effective in stopping it** –Environmentalist

Of footpath riders and road rage

Action has been taken against over 600 people for either riding on footpath or parking on it. Special Commissioner (Traffic) MA Saleem said that more than 600 cases have been booked against those who were either riding their bikes on footpaths or parking.

"Earlier, riders using footpaths had to pay a Rs 500 fine and get away with the violation. We wanted to emphasise on the seriousness of the issue and so we are filing cases and handing over the vehicles to court possession. The violators have to get their vehicles released based on the court order," he said.

Currently, police are booking cases under section 283 of the Indian Penal Code that relates to danger or obstruction in public way or line of navigation and the provision states, "Whoever, by any act, or by omitting to take order with any property in his possession or under his charge, causes danger, obstruction or injury to any person in any public way or public line of navigation, shall be punished, with a fine."

Shocking road rage case

A few days after a biker dragged a senior citizen on the road, Bengaluru witnessed another shocking incident where a woman driver dragged a man who was seen clinging onto the car's bonnet. The video shows the man, Darshan, struggling to stay put on the bonnet of the car allegedly driven by the woman, Priyanka.

Woman speeds off as man clings on to bonnet of her car after altercation

Police said that Darshan's car and Priyanka's vehicle collided on Jnanabharathi Main Road on Friday morning. Darshan got out of his vehicle, and tried to talk to Priyanka and the other occupants of the car, when she allegedly accelerated her car. He quickly jumped and climbed onto the bonnet of her car, but she continued to speed with Darshan on the bonnet. The woman, her husband Pramod and one more person have been booked on charges of attempt to murder and conspiracy. Pramod lodged a counter-complaint against Darshan and his three friends accusing them of beating him up and molesting his wife, the police said adding that five people were arrested in this connection.

—BMB

RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

EVER CHANGING MOODS

Write to him at c-rajmohan.sudhakar@timesgroup.com

Mountain madness

The excesses of humanity, its greed, irreverence and lack of foresight, are now gnawing gleefully at gigantic massifs that keep earth's most ancient secrets. At the heart of the youngest and most geologically active mountain chain in the world, human activity aided by powerful tunnelling equipment has been haphazardly interfering with the slow churn of primordial forces.

The thrust of energy from the planet's core pushing these mountains skyward is beyond the human psyche to fathom. Surely it is not in our interest to meddle with this ancient flux. Now that we have, sans impact assessment or adequate research, the ecological balance of the region is exposed to a high level of risk. No doubt the after effects of the aforesaid violation of nature is unravelling in the Himalayas of Uttarakhand.

Society must leave its accessories behind before it enters the vast Himalayan expanse; even at the foothills, that surround the gigantic peaks reaching up to the blue vastness of alpine skies and make up the buffer zone of this amazement of a geographical feature, one must shed their ubiquitous sense of superiority. The cold mountain is the ultimate ego breaker.

The ancient temples spread over the many ranges and valleys in between or foothills, ready the traveller for the strenuous journeys uphill. As you snake along the hills and climb up in a vehicle or by foot, the higher you arrive in the mountains, the mind and body keep shrinking in vulnerability to the elements.

That's why perhaps humanity's contraptions that destroy and pollute, machines that leave a trail of devastation and death in nature, should have been left behind before us entering this extremely eco sensitive zone. Now, at the least, it would benefit our kind, if we kept our interference in the mountainous realm to the bare minimum, as a complete withdrawal is out of the question.

For instance, as soon as you are in the vicinity of the Dhauladhar range, in the picturesque Kangra valley of Himachal Pradesh, one of the closest Himalayan valleys to the humdrum of the city, the first thing you shall notice is how all of a sudden life's turned so laid back as it should ideally be. The natural calm that the mountains command from any entity is a constant here. As the Gaddi shepherds herd flocks to the valley in winter and lammergeier vultures soar high above the peaks scouting for carrion to feed fledgling chicks waiting in the rock crevices, there is a certain meditational stillness here that deserves not to be disturbed.

This kind of life, without props of greed, selfishness or thirst for absolute power over the other, has a unique charm in the age of big tech — a throwback from the age of the great sages. The Indian Himalaya is much more than the detoxifying break that many in our cities make it out to be. One must step lightly as this terrain commands immense respect and reverence.

The mountains, and what's left of them now, are one of the last remaining frontiers of nature as the valleys remained inaccessible, impenetrable and isolated for quite a long time. Few dared to venture due to the exhaustion and fatigue of thin air, and the physical strain that comes along with it; henceforth life in these parts had largely remained frozen in time. Nevertheless, survival in the mountains requires a truly special composure, if you like, not urban abandon.

From this unique bearing of the mind flows the warmth, humility and hospitality of the mountain folk that respect nature, which spring not out of any formal education, research or scholarship but by the nearness of mountains.

Now, these unquestionably human traits aforementioned were not going to hold forth against the machines that arrived from the city. The Indian Himalaya, for the powers that be, is real estate; there is the fast buck to be made in the facade of hiking, pilgrimage, meditation, worship, self reflection or what have you.

What the insensitive forget is that some features of nature exist to remind us constantly how small we are. The Himalaya is a counter current to the oceanic depths — a reminder of nature's slow churn indecipherable to our kind. The ebbing of the primeval pulse here is shaping the contours of earth while on the margins sustaining life.

In the stupendous charm and magnetism of the mountains, assured is the inevitability of man's doom who thinks he can tame anything with money and power.

If you have roamed freely amongst the massiveness of the Indian Himalaya, naturally you would not lift an axe or shift a gear of the earthmover in this geography — if instinct or common sense is to be trusted upon. But, alas, how we have ended up bleeding the Himalaya as cracks emerge from the soul of the mountain!

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

CHILLY DAY

One winter morning at Kalkere Lake

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Ashrrith Karunaakar**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

Cooke Town, a neighbourhood in Bengaluru was built as a suburb before 1947. It is one of the most popular localities in the north-eastern part of the city. It is named after GH Cooke who was the president of Bangalore Civil and Military Station Municipality. He was also the president of Bangalore club in 1931. He is also known to have served as the inspector of schools for Bengaluru and Coorg in 1933. Cooke Town was established when the Madras government was ruling Bangalore Civil and Military Station. The neighbourhood is surrounded by other places that were established pre-independence like Frazer Town, Benson Town, Pottery Town and more.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

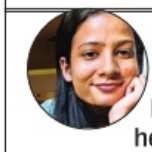
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

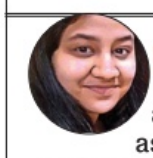
Which are the destinations on your travel itinerary for 2023 and why?

Ankita Prabhakar, BM Reader
In 2023, I plan to travel to Maldives, Seychelles, California, Goa, Varkala and in Karnataka, mostly Coorg and Chikmagalur for vacations. Beach places for warmth and tea estates for tea.

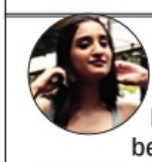


Kanishka Khandelwal
BM Reader
In 2023, I plan to visit all the heritage temples and sites around north Karnataka like Pattadakal and Hampi to explore the caves and ruins.

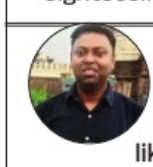
Snigdha P, BM Reader
I would love to travel to Mumbai, Lonavala and Pune primarily for sightseeing, shopping and trying out street food.



Soumya S, BM Reader
I would love to travel to Gujarat and experience camp life as well as the treks in Dharamshala and Manali since I am an outdoor person.



Priyanka Gurumurthy,
BM Reader
I would love to travel to all the beach places like Goa, Mangaluru and Varkala. Having stayed in Bengaluru for so long, I long for the warmth of the beaches, sunshine and waves as well as shopping, sightseeing, night-life and beach activities.



Himadri Roy, BM Reader
I am a person with a strong spiritual foundation and would like to travel to Badrinath and Kedarnath. I have visited three other dhams and would like to go to Badrinath this year to complete my Char Dham Yatra.

SPEAK TO US

What are the changes you wish to see in parks this year?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Odd one out: This road left unrepaired

All roads adjacent to and near this one road in Channanayakanapalya are well-maintained; residents of area urge BBMP to fix this neglected one too

| Shreyashi Mukherjee
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The residents staying near Channanayakanapalya are struggling to commute as a road in the area has not been repaired for a long time. However, all the adjacent roads have been fixed.

According to the residents, this road has remained in a poor condition for more than three years.

Despite repeated requests, no action has been taken to fix the road.

"The road has remained in a terrible state for years and no attention has been paid to the requests of the people. We cannot even ride our two wheelers on this road as it might result in an accident," said Kshitij A, a resident of the area.

Another resident told Bangalore Mirror that many residents tried their best requesting officials to take action since all the adjacent and other roads near it have been white topped and some have been asphalted.

"When we raised our concerns about this road, we were told that it does not fall under the budget. We tried other means as well but we did not get any reply. No one even came to visit the area and inspect the issues," he said.

Commuters dread the broken roads of Channanayakanapalya

Rain trouble

Reportedly, during rains, the condition of the road further worsens as water accumulates in this area and it makes the road more slippery and dangerous. According to Amit Sharma, another resident, it is very dangerous for kids to use this road for commuting.

"Just a few days ago, my son was riding his bicycle and because of the uneven and broken surface he fell and injured himself. Everyone in this area is facing a lot of problems because of this road," he said.

"During rains, one cannot even imagine walking through this road. It is filled with mud and even for bikes and cars the road becomes very risky. Something should be done soon," said Amitha Gowda, another resident.

A Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) official told BM that they will look into the matter.

Of fence thieves, bottlenecks, and name games

To prevent jaywalking, major portions of Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway had been fenced by the authorities. But in the last few months, citizens have reported the fencing to being broken in many places and many had even taken to social media to blame the poor quality of materials used for fencing.

But according to Mysuru MP Pratap Simha, the problem is not faulty materials, but thieves.

"We had completely fenced the Ramanagara-Channapatna by pass. However, scrap dealers are stealing the fencing material during night. The stealing is rampant in Bidadi and Mandya by pass as well. We are in the process of fixing CCTVs," he said.

However, a few traffic experts say that the fencing of highways may not be a long-term solution as locals tended to break them to cross the roads or sell it at the scrap market.

"The fencing of the main carriageway has been attempted earlier at many places including Tumakuru and Krishnagiri highways. However, now the fencing no longer exists. This is the reason why the authorities at Hosur road are trying a different type of experiment by installing high medians. Though this could be a bit expensive, it could be a better option than the fencing," said a road expert.

Bottlenecks

Ask any Bengalurean frequently travelling on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway and they'll tell you crossing Mandya takes the longest time. While the bypasses of Bidadi, Ramanagar-Channapatna, Maddur bypass-cum-flyover and Srirangapatna are open to traffic, commuters are forced to travel via Mandya which takes a lot of time. Once the Mandya bypass is open to the public, it will help in smoother flow of traffic.

The Mandya bypass may be open to citizens in 10 days

For travellers, the other bottlenecks are near ORR junction-Columbia Asia junction in Mysuru and Kumbalgod junction as one approaches Bengaluru. An NHAI official said that they were in the process of acquiring additional land near the Kumbalgodu down ramp till the NICE junction to ease congestion.

Name game

The Vokkaliga Yuva Brigade has requested Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari to name the expressway after Balagangadharanatha Swamiji. Mysuru MP Pratap Simha had proposed to name it as the Cauvery expressway while a section of people want it to be named as Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar expressway. There is also a demand by the JDS party to name it after former PM HD Deve Gowda. Gadkari said that while there were no norms for naming the expressway, he would discuss with the PM on taking a call on the issue. **-Prakash VL**

New-age need: Help kids kick screen habit

This and more in list of Budget demands released by Karnataka Child Rights Observatory

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The organisation wants counselling for kids addicted to their phones and help for underprivileged children

Ahead of the budget session of the Karnataka legislature that will be starting on February 10, the Karnataka Child Rights Observatory (KCRO) has released a list of demands for provisions to be included in the budget.

Some of the major demands were for a budget provision to the Department of Health and Family Welfare for counselling of the children who have been addicted to gadgets and screens. There were also demands for health insurance assistance and assistive device for differently abled children.

"They have to consider disabled children while drafting the budget. During the pandemic, such disabled children were neglected as there was no exercise and education available for them. There should be a separate provision for them. Moreover, children who have been addicted to screens should be given counselling with the help of NIMHANS. There is also an urgent need for counsellors and mental health professionals in state-run schools and there should be a provision made in the budget for the same," said Nagasimha G Rao, Director, Child Rights Trust.

The organisation has also advised that child-friendly hospitals should be constructed in every taluk and medical check-ups should be conducted for school-children every three months. This was to ensure that children are not exposed to infections, drugs, physical or sexual abuse, etc.

The organisation has also demanded for a provision for the Education Department to organise school trips and sightseeing activities throughout the year.

"Moreover, the budget should also focus on menstrual hygiene for school children. There is a program for distributing sanitary napkins to school girls but many have not received them. Along with this, incinerators should also be provided to all the schools to ensure proper disposal of these sanitary napkins... In some schools, there is no electricity. The government should look into it accordingly and set aside a budget," Rao explained further.

The organisation also demanded a separate provision for child protection-related issues, for example, victims of child marriage and POCSO cases.

"It is also seen that suicidal tendencies have increased among children these days. For that reason, IEC material should be provided to the children and a provision should be made to achieve the same... More importantly, there should be research studies done in the state. For example, how many cases of child labour are in the state? To do this study also, they should make some provisions. When we analyse the budget, we see only services, but collecting data and other such things should also be involved," he said.

> **There is also an urgent need for counsellors and mental health professionals in state-run schools and there should be a provision made in the budget**
>
> –Nagasimha G Rao, Director, Child Rights Trust

Among other demands was the rehabilitation for the children who are forced into begging, compensation for the children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19 pandemic, a budget for self-defence training for the school children, etc.

Progress, one corridor at a time

The much-awaited suburban railway project got a boost recently with the South Western Railways (SWR) transferring 157 acres of land to Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE).

The current transfer of land will help K-RIDE to take up work on the second -- there are four -- Baiyappanahalli to Chikkabanavara corridor. The land has been leased for a period of 35 years for Re 1 per acre. Kusuma Hariprasad (ADRM), SWR said, "The process for transferring land for other corridors is in the process."

Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan said that the land transfer has been successfully done after three months of hectic parleys between various departments. "We hope that the second corridor will be completed by 2025," he said.

This corridor will be a crucial one which would connect northwest Bengaluru to eastern parts. Currently, hundreds of people travel from Chikkabanavara and neighbouring areas towards Whitefield and they can dream of hopping on to a train to reach their offices. The corridor will be of 25.01 km in length and will have the following stations: Chikkabanavara, Myadarahalli, Shettyhalli, Jalahalli, Yeshwanthpur, Lottegollahalli, Hebbal, Kanakanagar, Nagawara, Kaveri Nagar, Banaswadi, Seva Nagar, Kasturi Nagar and Baiayappanahalli. Six of the stations in this corridor will be elevated.

The next in line would be the corridor from Heelalige to Rajanakunte which spanning 46.24 km. This project requires approximately 193 acre of land and SWR officials are currently reviewing the land transfer details. This corridor has the following stations Rajanakunte, Muddenahalli, Yelahanka, Jakkur, Hegde Nagar, Thanisandra, Hennur, Horamavu, Channasandra, Baiyappanahalli, Benniganahalli, Kaggasandrapura, Doddenakundi, Bellandur Road, Carmelaram, Ambedkar Nagar, Huskur and Singena Agrahara.

"The Heelalige station is closer to Chandapura. The benefit of travelling via Heelalige station helps commuters avoid traffic congestion on the roads leading to Electronics City especially between Central Silk Board and E-City. Once we have sub-urban trains, then there won't be interruptions in service besides regular trains," said Chandra R, who travels from Hebbal to Electronics City on a regular basis. **-BMB**

No change? Need UPI in buses

BMTC is in talks with banks to get the best deal after which system would be put in place

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BMTC was planning to launch UPI-based ticketing system in the first week of January

Regular users of Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses will have to wait a bit longer for the buses to become UPI friendly. The commuters told BM that they are eagerly awaiting the UPI payment system as it would help them avoid the hassle of carrying the exact change needed to buy tickets.

BMTC was supposed to launch the UPI-based ticketing system in the first week of January. However, there has been some delay in that as they are still talking with banks. BMTC director (Technical) AV Surya Sen, said, "We are currently in talks with different banks. We are discussing about MDR charges and the daily transaction charges. Whichever bank gives us the best offer, we will go ahead with them. Otherwise, the solution is ready for implementation."

The commuters who use BMTC on a daily basis, say that having a UPI-based ticketing system will be very convenient for them.

Manju Ashok, a commuter, told BM, "As such, BMTC buses are very convenient for traveling except for the tickets' purchase. Conductors always ask for the exact change for the tickets and these days it is very difficult to get the change. Sometimes with the crowd, it also gets very difficult to take the exact amount of money from my bag. Hence, a UPI system would be very convenient."

> **"Conductors always ask for the exact change for tickets and these days it is very difficult to get the change** –Manju Ashok, commuter

Aneesha Kashyap, another commuter, told BM about an episode on the bus. "When I got on to the bus, I had only a Rs 500 note with me and the ticket would cost me Rs 35. The bus conductor did not have any change and the people on the bus also did not have change for Rs 500. After a lot of hassle and requests, I was finally able to come across one of the passengers in the bus who had the change for Rs 500. With the UPI system in place, this problem would not have occurred."

According to him, there are also instances when people forget to carry cash with them before leaving, which would also be okay if UPI system is in place.

The commuters also say that these days everyone has UPI payment system with them, so, BMTC should start it soon as people hardly carry change with them these days. Aditi Rai, a student, said, "I hardly carry any cash with me because I have the fear that I feel forget my purse somewhere. There have been so many times that I decided to use the bus, however, because of the lack of UPI, I had to book an auto or cab on which I ended up spending more money."

Two lakes await birds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Local residents told BM that there have been no bird arrivals at Chinnappanahalli Lake either. According to ornithologists, the reasons behind the birds giving these lakes a miss can range from high pollution levels to the good raina last monsoon, leading to the distribution of migratory birds far and wide.

"The structure and ecology of the lakes have changed drastically in the city. Lesser number of birds can also be attributed to the lake development model where they redesign the lake into a soup-bowl structure.

Bird numbers have reduced not just this year, but over the years since the new model was adopted. Another reason behind this can be the availability of water everywhere. Every waterbody in the city is filled due to too much rain this monsoon. This might have caused the birds to spread far and wide. To draw any specific conclusion, the behavior has to be observed for at least a couple of years," said S Subramanya, noted ornithologist.

Lakes in poor condition

Lack of maintenance, according to the residents, has led to sewage entering both lakes from nearby establishments, making the waterbodies almost sterile. The water is smelly and has become dark green. They said while the lakes have deteriorated over the past two years, the situation has become unbearable in the last two months.

"No bird will visit a lake that is stinking and had a fish kill incident recently. While the BBMP has created a diversion channel to keep sewage out of the lake in dry flow season, these channels have not been cleaned for at least two years now. Silt has blocked the channels, leading even a small stream of sewage directly to the waterbody. There was a fish kill incident in the lake recently; it appears there are no fish left," said Kunhambu.

Residents further added that while they have reached out to the officials concerned at the BBMP and BWSSB and have raised the issue on multiple occasions, the agencies are busy shifting the blame.

The Munnekolala Lake was revived by a group of citizens in association with the BBMP. Residents planted around 1,000 trees around the waterbody. However, maintenance is the problem, the locals said.

"BBMP's lake engineer has put the onus on the BWSSB; there has been no response from the officials of the water board. While this blame game is going on, it is the lakes' ecosystems that are sustaining the damage. In the absence of any solution from the authorities concerned, we tried to treat the Chinnappanahalli Lake with the bokashi ball technique, but it is only a temporary solution. Sewage has been entering both waterbodies from nearby establishments," said resident Indira Belde.

When BM reached out to the BBMP officials concerned they chose not to comment on the issue.

Dry, slightly nippy weather in State

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday predicted dry weather in Karnataka owing to light to moderate southeastern and eastern winds which is prevailing over the state's lower tropospheric levels.

Predicting mainly clear skies over the state, the met department said that the state may observe shallow to moderate fog during the early morning hours in some areas during the next 48 hours.

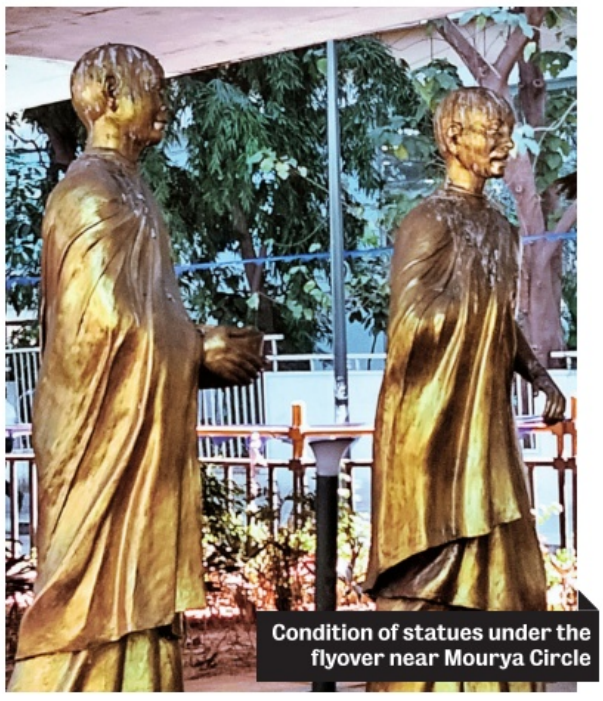
"The minimum temperature will remain 3 to 4 notches below normal at isolated places in the state during the next 24 hours and 2 to 3 notches below normal during the next 48 hours," informed IMD.

Dry weather is also predicted to prevail over the state during the next 48 hours.

Meanwhile, Bagalkote district recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 11-degree celsius in the plains, as per the IMD.

Apart from clear skies, IMD also predicted maximum and minimum temperatures of around 30 and 14 degree celsius respectively during the next 48 hours. ANI

> **Min temperature will remain 3 to 4 notches below normal at isolated places in the state**



Condition of statues under the flyover near Mourya Circle

Ground beneath city flyovers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

initiative to convert the vacant space into a basketball court or a skating rink, as the children in the vicinity have no playground.

"The BBMP authorities want to make prominent people happy by converting the vacant space below the flyover into a basketball court. I want the BBMP to evince similar interest on vacant spaces below the flyovers at different locations. The BBMP has not taken any measures for the upkeep of the vacant spaces below flyovers on Mysuru Road, Richmond Road and in Benniganahalli," said Basavaraj S, a motorist.

Ramachandra Rao, a resident of Madhava Nagar, criticised the BBMP for spending money to convert the space below the flyover at Sivananda Circle. He demanded that the BBMP authorities asphalt the roads and fill up potholes to facilitate smooth movement of vehicles around Sivananda Circle instead of spending money on converting the space into a skating rink or a basketball court.

"Who wants to play basketball below the flyover? Which parent will be ready to send his son or daughter to the skating rink where there is no safety, no trainer or a guide to help the children?" asked Rao.

Basavaraj Hudedagaddi, an advocate, demanded that the BBMP authorities maintain the spaces that were already developed under the flyovers properly. He said the space below the flyover at Mourya Junction is full of dust.

> **"We will develop the space below the flyover at Sivananda Circle... There is no plan to construct a skating rink or a basketball court here** — BS Prahlad, chief engineer, BBMP

"The BBMP developed the space below the flyover around the theme of Love and Surrender. The civic body put up statues of Buddha, Angulimala and others including that of a few animals. I welcome the BBMP for installing such statutes but I demand the civic body to ensure cleanliness here; remove dust and bird droppings from the statues," said Hudedagaddi.

Meanwhile, BBMP engineer-in-chief BS Prahlad said the vacant space below the flyover at Sivananda Circle would be developed into a public place. "We will develop this place on par with the vacant spaces developed near Mourya Circle and other places in the city. There is no plan to construct a skating rink or a basketball court here," said Prahlad.

 # Disclose your interest, influencers
The government on Friday made it mandatory for social media influencers to disclose their "material" interest in endorsing products and services

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How to kick the butt

Pollution Control Board releases norms for safe disposal of cigarette butts, suggests use of eco-friendly filters

#Bengaluru

Following the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has released guidelines for safe disposal of cigarette butts. The Board has also suggested the usage of eco-friendly cigarette filters as an alternative.

The Pollution Board has instructed local authorities to take action against littering of cigarette butts. Provisions are to be made for levying and enforcement of fines and the same should be updated in by-laws. While issuing a commercial license to establishments, commercial establishments will have to mandatorily provide adequate arrangements for the collection and disposal of butts in designated smoking zones. Domestic smokers need to segregate the butts as dry waste. The butts should be disposed of through recycling or end-of-life methods such as waste-to-energy co-processing. Each cigarette packet must contain instructions for safe disposal. Cigarette manufacturers will be instructed to create awareness of the adverse impact of the littering of cigarette butts.

According to CPCB, around 113 billion cigarette sticks and 100 billion cigarette butts were disposed of in the open in India

According to CPCB, around 113 billion cigarette sticks and 100 billion cigarette butts were disposed of in the open in India. With an estimated weight of 0.17 gm per cigarette, nearly 17 million kg of tobacco waste is dumped into. While the report from the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR) showed that the concentration of various parameters in cigarette butts was lower than prescribed levels, it showed that it took a longer time to degrade. But, another study using the US Environmental Protection Agency standard acute fish bioassays test showed toxicity to marine and freshwater fish.

It was also observed that the cellulose acetate in cigarette butts took longer to degrade. So, the pollution control board suggested recycling the butts. They can be chemically processed to remove impurities and can be turned into plastic pallets. It can also be used to make acoustic absorbent material and converted into a high-performing material that could be integrated into computers, and handheld devices to store energy. It can also be combined with other plastic to form new plastic products.

Further, the pollution authority wants to explore if single-use cigarette filters can be included in the list of banned single-use products or covered under Extended Producer responsibility, and explore alternatives for the elimination of single-use filters. It also asked to explore levying litter fees on cigarette manufacturers for clean-up and anti-tobacco product waste education, the separate compartment in packets for disposal, and monetary reimbursement of deposition of filters.

It also observed that alternatively plant-based filters made of a blend of all-natural, food-grade fibers utilising a starch-based binder can be used. This has been proposed as an alternative to cellulose acetate which takes more than 10-15 years to disintegrate. **– Melvin Mathew**

Urination case: ₹30 L fine on Air India, pilot suspended

#New Delhi

Aviation regulator DGCA has imposed a fine of Rs 30 lakh on Air India and suspended the License of pilot-in-command for three months in connection with the Air India urination case.

Moreover, the regulator has also imposed a penalty of Rs 3 lakh on Director-in-flight services of Air India for failing to discharge her duties on November 26, 2022.

The development in the case came a day after the airline banned the alleged accused Shankar Mishra for four months on the basis of a report by the internal committee.

The incident of passenger misbehaviour which occurred on AI-102 flight from New York to New Delhi, came to the notice of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on January 4, 2023 wherein a male passenger conducte, said a senior DGCA official.

The DGCA issued show-cause notices to Accountable Manager of Air India, Director in-flight Services of Air India, all the pilots and cabin crew members of that flight as to why enforcement action should not be taken against them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations. The written reply of Air India and the personnel involved were examined, added the official.

Accordingly, enforcement actions have been taken in the instant case. **– IANS**

Wrestlers adamant on their stance, demand that WFI be disbanded

Wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and others during their ongoing protest against the Wrestling Federation of India, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday

#New Delhi

Top Indian wrestlers refused to climb down from their stand that the government initiate immediate steps to disband the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) as quickly as possible, even as Sports Minister Anurag Thakur continued to find a solution to break the deadlock on Thursday night.

Celebrated Indian wrestlers, including Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik, world championship medallist Vinesh Phogat and others have been staging a sit-in protest for the last two days at Jantar Mantar here against WFI President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, accusing him of sexual exploitation and intimidation.

On Thursday night, the protesting wrestlers led by Vinesh and Bajrang besides Sakshi, Anshu Malik, Ravi Dahiya, Sarita Mor, among others met Thakur at his residence and demanded speedy action.

The two sides were involved in a marathon meeting which continued late into the night, with the parties failing to find a tangible solution thus far. According to sources, the government wants the wrestlers to end their protest but the athletes are adamant that the WFI should first be disbanded.

"The government can resolve other issues later... we are fine with that, but it must disband WFI first," a source close to the wrestlers told PTI. A team of wrestlers, including Bajrang, Vinesh, Anshu, Sakshi and her husband Satyawrat Kadiyan had earlier in the day met government officials and discussed their issues with Sports Secretary Sujata Chaturvedi, Director General SAI Sandip Pradhan and Joint Secretary (Sports) Kunal.

During the one-hour meeting, the wrestlers were asked to end their protest and assured that their grievances will be addressed. **– PTI**

We have proof of charges: Bajrang Punia

Ace India wrestler Bajrang Punia on Thursday said wrestlers have "proof" of the allegations levelled against the Wrestling Federation of India and its chief and demanded that the body should be dissolved. Punia, an Olympic medallist, said the protesting wrestlers are seeking justice over their charges of sexual harassment of women wrestlers by the president and coaches of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and of mismanagement in the functioning of the federation. "The WFI president stated that he will hang himself if the sexual harassment allegations are found to be true. Earlier there were just two girls who had come forward but now 5-6 girls have raised their voices and that too along with the proof. We are not making bogus claims," Punia said. "Our aim is to revive wrestling in India. If actions are not taken promptly we will take the help of the police and judiciary," he added. **– ANI**

Google's parent company Alphabet to lay off 12K employees

#San Francisco

Joining the Big Tech league of Amazon, Meta and Microsoft, Google's parent company Alphabet is now laying off 12,000 employees, or about 6 per cent of its workforce, globally, the media reported on Friday.

Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai, in an internal memo accessed first by Reuters, announced the layoffs that are across the verticals, including engineering, product, recruiting and corporate teams.

The layoffs at Google's parent company were expected amid the deepening funding winter that has hit companies of all sizes in the global slowdown and recession fears.

WORLD

Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella said earlier this week that the company will be "making changes that will result in the reduction of our overall workforce by 10,000 jobs through the end of FY23 Q3 (third quarter)".

More than 1,600 tech employees are being laid off per day on an average in 2023 globally, including in India, and the sacking episodes have gained speed amid global economic meltdown and recession fears.

The year 2023 has begun on a bad note for tech workers globally as 91 companies have laid off more than 24,000 tech employees in the first 15 days this month, signalling worse days ahead.

Amazon announced to lay off 18,000 employees globally, including nearly 1,000 in India.

Cyber-security company Sophos is laying off about 450 people globally including in India -- which is 10 per cent of its workforce -- to achieve "the optimal balance of growth and profitability". **– IANS**

Parole for Dera Sacha Sauda chief yet again

#Chandigarh

Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was on Friday again granted a 40-day parole, officials said.

The latest parole to the Dera chief, who is serving a 20-year jail term for raping his two disciples, comes three months after he was granted a similar parole.

"The parole has been granted for 40 days. It has been granted as per rules," Rohtak's Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Verma told PTI over the phone.

The Dera chief's last 40-day parole had ended on November 25 last year. He had gone to his Barnawa ashram in Uttar Pradesh after his release on October 14.

Earlier, Haryana Jails Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala, while commenting on the Dera chief's fresh parole plea, had said the latter had filed an application seeking a 40-day parole which had been forwarded to the Rohtak divisional commissioner.

During his parole period, the Dera chief is also likely to attend the birth anniversary event of former Dera chief Shah Satnam Singh on January 25, sources said.

During his previous parole period in October-November, the 55-year-old Sirsa Dera chief held several online 'satsangs' at the Barnawa ashram in UP.

Some of these were also attended by BJP leaders from Haryana.

Prior to his October parole, the sect chief had come out of prison on a month-long parole in June.

He was also granted three weeks furlough from February 7, 2022, barely two weeks before the Punjab Assembly elections. – PTI

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I, KAVATHIA TUSHAR KUMAR MAGANBHAI, S/o, Kavathia Maganbhai and Residing at No.281, 3rd Main, 9th Cross, Teachers Layout, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru 560072 Karnataka India, have changed my name to KAVATHIA TUSHAR MAGANBHAI vide Affidavit dated 09.01.2023 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana

I, GANESHAN GOPAL R/o. No 313, 9th Main Road, 4th Block, Near Rama Mandira, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010 have changed my name to GANESH GOPAL vide Affidavit dt. 20.01.2023 sworn before notary Mr. C Srinivas Bengaluru.

I, DEEPAK NAIK, S/o, Beerappa Naik and Residing at SF16, 'D' Block, Vasundhara Skyscape Apt, 5th 'A' Main, Doddakallasandra, Bangalore 560062 Karnataka India, have changed my name to DEEPAK BEERAPPA NAIK vide Affidavit dated 06.01.2023 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana

I, Ramya Selvam W/o Ponmani Palanisamy R/o 214, Daisy Block, Vijayasri Elixir, Borewell Road, Nallurahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru -560066 have changed my name to Ramya Selvan for all purposes.

I, PRASHANTH NAVALE, S/o, Mahabal Rao Navale and Residing at C604, Sipani Bliss Phase 2, Close to GreenDot School, Bandapura, Bangalore Rural 562106 Karnataka India, have changed my name to PRASHANTH NAVALE MAHABAL RAO vide Affidavit dated 10.01.2023 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana.

I, ADIL RAHMAN, S/o, Noor Mohammed and Residing at No.49/2, 3rd Cross, Berlie Street Cross Road, Shanthi Nagar, Bangalore 560025 Karnataka India, have changed my name to ADIL REHMAN vide Affidavit dated 17.01.2023 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana

I, NAYEEMA, W/o, Adil Rehman and Residing at No.49/2, 3rd Cross, Berlie Street Cross Road, Shanthi Nagar, Bangalore 560025 Karnataka India, have changed my name to NAYEEMA REHMAN vide Affidavit dated 17.01.2023 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana

I, Bapu Vinod Kumar .T s/o Thimmanagowda R/o # 13, 4th cross, Near Ganesha Temple, Bhumika Layout, Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru 560090 have changed my name to BAPU VINOD KUMAR affidavit Dt.05/12/2022, Notary Ganesh Gowda M V, B'luru.

I Tahrima Bano W/o Aslam Khan, R/o 494 A,2nd floor,8th cross,10th main, HAL 3rd stage, Jeevan bhima nagar Bengaluru-560075 have changed my name to Tahrima Aslam Khan

I Shubham S/O, Narendra Kumar R/o 14/3,4th Model House Street, thagrajnagar, basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004 have changed my name to Shubham Jain

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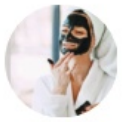

Reduce the toxic burden on your body by switching to non-toxic personal care and beauty products

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GOODBYE GREASE

Ways to get rid of greasy hair before that big day

Numerous sebaceous glands on your scalp and face secrete sebum, a waxy oil-like material. It holds the outermost layer of your hair strands together and stops moisture loss, which can cause frizzy hair. The natural flow of this sebum is expected to cover each hair strand from the scalp to the tips. It is essential for the healthy operation of your hair ecosystem. But, sometimes, your scalp may begin to produce more sebum than you need, accumulating on your hair strand and weighing it down. The result? Greasy hair when combined with dirt, filth, and sweat. Here are some of the main reasons why you get greasy hair.

Overwashing

This may be difficult to believe, but this most frequently causes oily hair. Too much shampooing can remove the natural oils in your hair that are supposed to protect you. Your scalp responds by creating extra oil to make up for the loss.

Hormonal Changes

Variations in testosterone, oestrogen, or progesterone levels can directly affect your sebum secretions and have varying effects on various people. This may result in more sebum being produced on your scalp and hair.

Unclean Brushes And Pillow Covers

When you don't wash your brush and leave it sitting about, it might gather bacteria, old products, and grime. This gets transmitted to your hair, disrupting the health of your hair's oil production. The same thing occurs when pillowcases are not routinely washed.

Weather Changes

Your scalp receives conflicting messages if you take a hot shower after being in a cool environment. As a defence strategy, your body may produce extra oil in response to these abrupt changes. Even humidity and sweat can contribute to raising body temperature and causing your sebaceous glands to produce more oil.

> **Sebacious glands on your face and scalp secrete sebum, an oil-like material; it holds the outermost layer of your hair strands together and stops moisture loss**

Natural Remedies To Get Rid Of Greasy Hair

Natural oils are essential for a healthy scalp, beautiful hair, and protection. Here are a few natural remedies which can help you get rid of greasy hair without harming or irritating your scalp.

Apple Cider Vinegar

A hair rinse with apple cider vinegar may help manage excessive sebum production. Mix two to three teaspoons of ACV with one cup of water, and then cleanse your hair after shampooing it with a gentle shampoo. After a few minutes, remove it by rinsing it with cold water.

Aloe Vera

Due to its nutrient-rich nature, aloe vera demonstrates powerful astringent and nourishing qualities. It also helps in reducing excessive oil production. Add a few drops of lemon juice and one to two teaspoons of aloe vera juice and blend with a cup of water. After shampooing, rinse your hair with this combination.

Egg Yolk

Egg yolks may constrict hair follicles, reduce sebum output, and help you get rid of greasy hair. Apply egg yolks to your freshly cleaned hair after combining them with one tablespoon of lemon juice. To avoid the scent of eggs, leave it on for 30 to 40 minutes and then thoroughly rinse it with cold water.

Multani Mitti

When you wash your hair with Multani mitti, you not only rid your scalp and hair of dirt and pollutants but also maintain its health, radiance, and lustre. For a clean scalp, apply some pure Multani mitti powder and rinse it with water.

Coconut Oil

Virgin coconut oil offers your hair the necessary shine because it is light and has a lower molecular weight than many other oils. It might aid in reducing excessive sebum production. Apply virgin coconut oil to the tips of your hair and scalp. After an hour, leave it on and wash it off with a gentle cleanser.

Lemon Juice

Citric acid, found in lemon juice, reduces sebum excretion and helps to get rid of greasy hair. Take 2 cups of distilled water and combine it with 4 to 5 tablespoons of lemon juice. Keep the mixture cold. Apply this combination to your hair after pat drying after a hair wash. Wash it off with water after 10-15 minutes.

Rice Water

Treating hair with rice water will solve dandruff issues and help get rid of greasy hair. Rinse your hair with rice water after every shampooing, or use it as a weekly hair treatment.

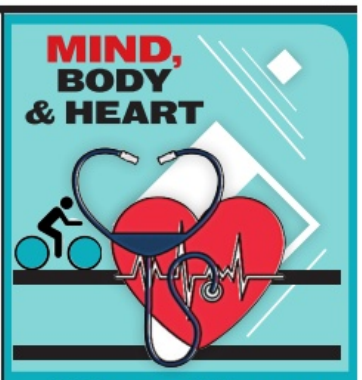
Argan Oil

Redistributing sebum to your hair shafts and maintaining their moisture can be accomplished by massaging argan oil into your scalp and hair. Also, it can control sebum output, promote blood circulation, and help to get rid of greasy hair.

Green Tea

Polyphenols included in green tea are great for your scalp's health. When the water is boiling, add green tea powder and filter it. Apply it to your scalp and hair after it has cooled. Rinse it off after 30 to 40 minutes of application.

—**Poulami Bhandari (Femina)**



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Dear Coleen

I'm a man in my 30s and I'm having a tough time in my marriage. We've only been married four years and I've recently found out that my wife kissed another guy she knows through work. Apparently, they don't work together directly, as they're not in the same team.
She told me about the kiss herself, as I think the guilt became too much for her. She said they got on well and the friendship became flirtatious, and then one night after work they kissed.
She claims she realised right away that she didn't want to take things any further and immediately felt bad about what had happened. It took her about a week to admit it. I'm not sure what to think. I know they didn't sleep together, but she crossed a line and it still feels like she cheated. My mood is swinging all over.
I'm confused about what to do now.
She says she loves me and never had any intention of having an affair or going off with this guy.

COLEEN SAYS

I wouldn't expect you to get over it straight away. She may not have slept with this workmate, but it is line crossing and it is cheating because they'd been having an emotional affair for a while. But as soon as things got physical, it was a wake-up call for your wife and she realised she was making a big mistake.
Can you come back from it?
Yes, but you need to do a lot of talking and tell her how you feel.
And you also have to be clear that if it happens again, there are no second chances. She needs to make a decision now to be honest and to commit to working on the marriage.
She's made a mistake, but she's owned up to it and she is sorry, so that's a positive start.
Try some counselling, listen to how she felt and try to understand.

—**Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror**

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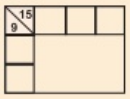
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

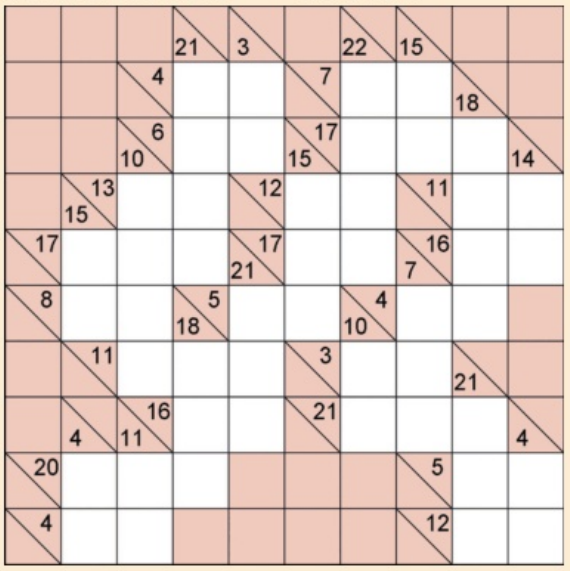
(-3-5!) x (8-6!) / (4! x 41) = ?

Kakuro

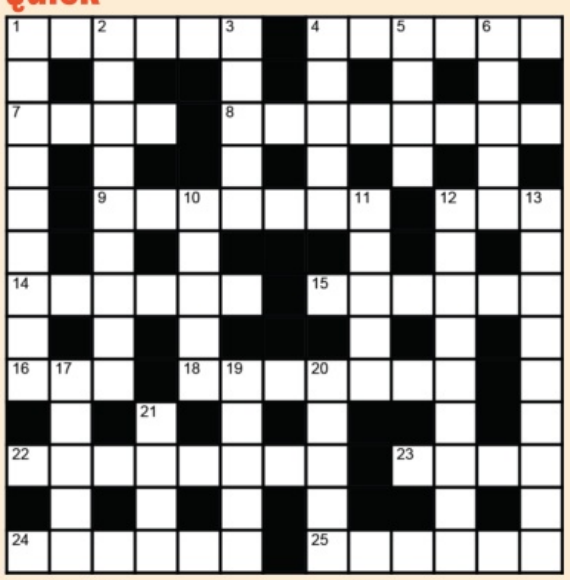
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Reviewer (6)
4 Endeavoured (6)
7 Meeting point (4)
8 Offhand (8)
9 Bishop's staff (7)
12 Colourful form of the common carp (3)
14 Wily or shrewd (6)
15 Beguile or ensnare (6)
16 Progressive rock group (3)
18 Russian royal house (7)
22 Field gun (8)
23 As well as (4)
24 Doubters (6)
25 Smith's blocks (6)

DOWN

1 100th anniversary (9)
2 Points to (9)
3 Parts of sleeves (5)
4 Slip (5)
5 Strong cord (4)
6 Ex-India captain Mankad (5)
10 Aquatic animal (5)
11 A quarrel or a spat (3,2)
12 Restaurant at the Taj Gateway hotel known for its seafood (9)
13 Domineering (9)
17 Black wood (5)
19 Drains slowly (5)
20 Main artery (5)
21 Stereo (2-2)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS T

PBS DZWRP YOFGZDZXFPZVJ DVW F BZRPVWZFJ ZR PV BFTS JV FUZGZPE PV ZJTSJP.

Linemaro

Can I get your picture to prove to all my friends that angels really do exist?

Mindchow

My life is my message

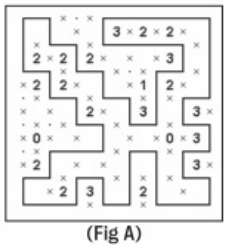
Joke of the day

Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with

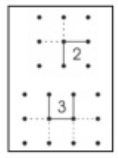
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

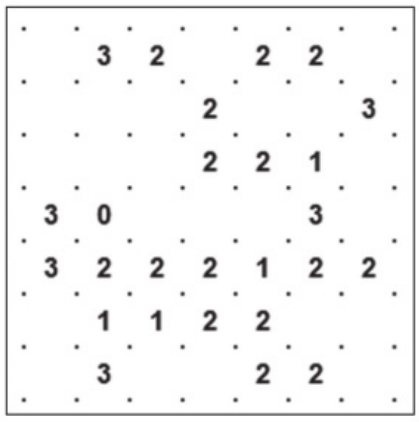


(Fig B) Not Allowed

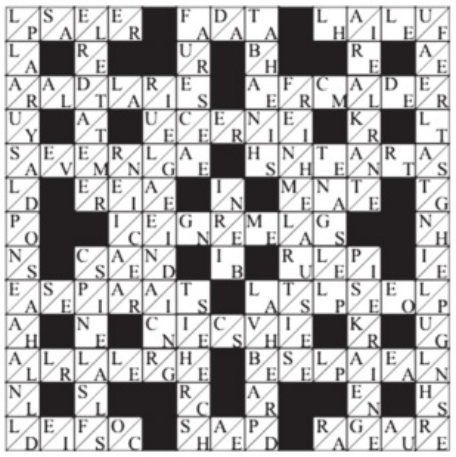
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



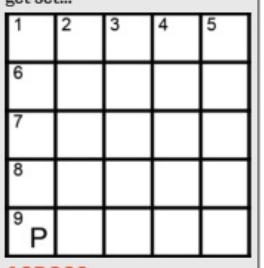
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Tamps; 6 Iliac;
7 At art; 8 Ore he;
9 Up Rod

DOWN

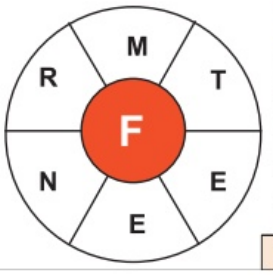
1 Scrap; 2 Trite;
3 Loath; 4 Ma IOU;
5 Padre

Mensapuzzle

Find a magic number square in the grid where all lines, ie, horizontal, vertical and corner to corner, add up to the same total.

25	21	19	20	35	45
22	20	24	5	10	30
18	23	26	40	25	15
7	15	25	9	13	11
8	17	10	15	10	14
16	12	14	16	12	17
3	13	18	11	9	8

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

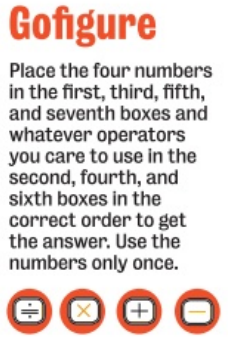
SudokuChallenge

2		3		5		8		6
	4	6				2	7	
	9						5	
		2	7		8	5		
				1				
		8	5		6	4		
	2						6	
	6	5				9	4	
7		4		6		3		1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



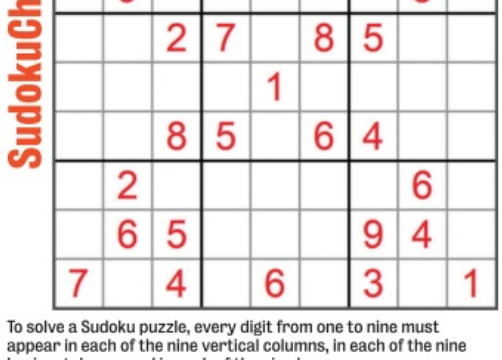
Easy = 1
4 6 7 8

Medium = 37
2 4 4 5

Hard = 20
3 4 9 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is moved. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Glass is moved. 4. Tie is different. 5. Apron bow is missing. 6. Mouth is open.

Riddler

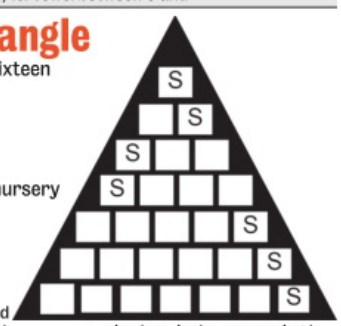
Diagramless is a special form of crossword puzzle. It is the same, just you have no idea where the black squares are, you have to use the answers to the clues and the numbers of them to figure that out. Can you figure this diagramless out? It is just a small, 4x4 grid, and there are two black squares.

Across Clues: 1. Water Sport, 5. Best Grade, 6. __ top of; above, 7. Place of relaxation, 9. Water Level

Down Clues: 1. Opposite of future, 2. Oxygen, 3. Fill by putting on, 4. Opposite of off, 8. 3.14, 10. Vowel between C and

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number Sixteen
2 _ easy _ a pie
3 __ dog: sailor
4 Dry up
5 Gains by labour
6 Ticks off
7 and lemons .. .. (nursery rhyme fruits)



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

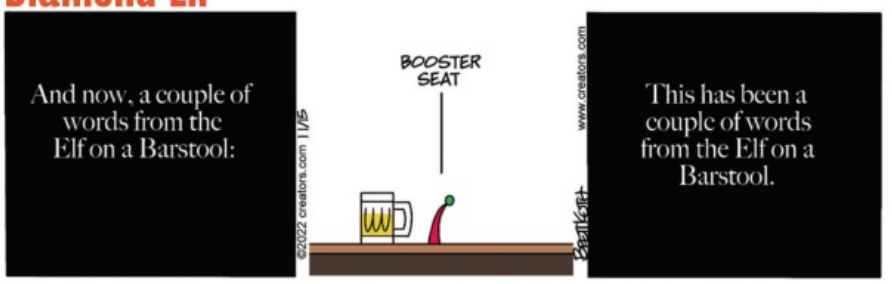
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

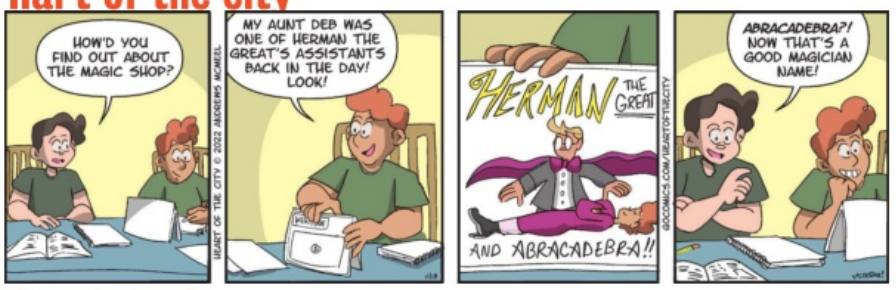
Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil


And now, a couple of words from the Elf on a Barstool:
BOOSTER SEAT
This has been a couple of words from the Elf on a Barstool.
©2022 creators.com 11/5
www.creators.com

Hart of the city


HOW'D YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THE MAGIC SHOP?
MY AUNT DEB WAS ONE OF HERMAN THE GREAT'S ASSISTANTS BACK IN THE DAY! LOOK!
HERMAN THE GREAT
AND ABRACADEBRA!!
ABRACADEBRA?! NOW THAT'S A GOOD MAGICIAN NAME!

Crankshaft

SO?
YOU WERE RIGHT...
I COULDN'T MELT THE SNOW FAST ENOUGH TO KEEP IT FROM HITTING THE DRIVEWAY.
YOUR 'I TOLD YOU SO FACE' IS NOT YOUR BEST LOOK!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you are likely to find internal strength. Your internal energy may be helpful for completing your projects before time. You may be likely to hear some good news related to your siblings. There may be some short trips related to business in the near future.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you will be happy. You will spend quality time with your family and friends. You may buy something for them. Domestic harmony will be improved, but you are advised to control your straightforwardness and harsh way of speaking.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today time will be favourable. Your focus will be good. You will be busy with the implementation of your plans in terms of growth in business. Your prestige in society will be increased. You will make some new partners in business, which will give you benefits in the near future.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you will feel dull. You will feel negativity pulling you back from taking strong decisions, which will affect your professional commitments. You will not be able to complete tasks on time. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your losses will convert to profits now, which will increase your liquidity in business. You will generate some extra income. Your kids' health will improve now. Lovebirds will take important decisions in terms of marriage. With the help of wisdom, you will keep yourself safe from conspiracies against you.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you will be busy at work. You will plan to make investments in business in terms of growth. You will be able to implement your plans easily, which will boost your confidence. You will be praised by your seniors. You can expect to get some important position in your work.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you will get ample opportunities in terms of work, which will grow your confidence. With the help of an influential person in terms of partnership, you will get benefits at work. There will be mental peace and happiness around you. Job seekers will hear good news in terms of suitable work. You will plan to visit some spiritual place.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today your moon is negative. There will be some dullness in your nature and you will be arrogant. It will affect your professional and domestic life. It is advised to drive safely and avoid going for adventure tours. Couples and lovebirds are advised to keep some distance and control their tongue while speaking.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you will be blessed by the positive moon. Things will be under control now. In partnerships, many issues will be resolved. You will start implementing new plans in your business. Students will take quick decisions in terms of their career. Job seekers will hear good news in terms of new job opportunities. Ego issues between couples will be resolved now.

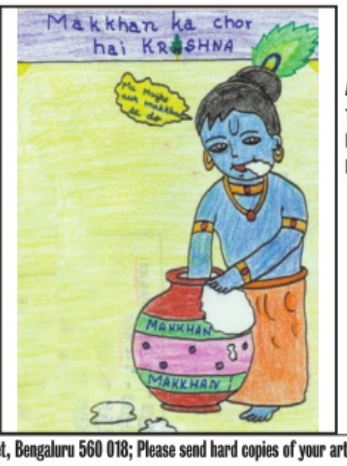
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today will be good somehow. Money which was stuck somewhere will be recovered now. It will increase liquidity in business. There will be some good news in terms of work. Your performance will be good and you can expect promotions. There will be some good news in terms of legal matters too.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may feel positive energy around you .You may plan for higher studies to groom your career. You may be busy with your kids. Students are advised to focus on their studies to achieve desired results.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today the moon is not favourable for you. Situations may be disappointing and you may be impatient. You may not be able to focus towards your goals. Investments in fixed assets are advised to be postponed for a while.

KIDZONE

Kavya R Gopu, 11 Years, Ryan International School



Adithi A Magaji, 12 Years, Ramanashree English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
((-3–120) x (8– 720))/(24x41)
= ((–123) x(–712)) /(984)
= (87576 / 984) = 89

BULL'S EYE
feet, FERMENT, fern, fete, free, fret, reef

STRIKE OUT

P	A	L	E	F	A	T	H	A	L	F				
L	E	U	H	R	E									
A	L	T	A	R	S	A	R	C	A	D	E			
N	L	R	A	N	S									
A	L	L	E	G	E	S	P	I	A	L				
H	E	N	I	C	H	E	K	U						
N	S	E	N	B	R	E	P	E						
O	C	I	N	E	M	A	S	H						
L	R	I	A	N	E	A	T	T						
A	V	E	N	G	E	S	H	E	A	R	S			
Y	T	E	E	R	I	E	R	L						
A	L	T	A	R	S	A	R	C	A	D	E			
N	L	R	A	N	S									
A	L	L	E	G	E	S	P	I	A	L				
H	E	N	I	C	H	E	K	U						
N	S	E	N	B	R	E	P	E						
O	C	I	N	E	M	A	S	H						
L	R	I	A	N	E	A	T	T						
D	I	S	C	S	A	D	A	G	U	E				

FAST FIVE

S	T	A	M	P
C	I	L	I	A
A	T	T	A	R
R	E	H	O	E
P	R	O	U	D

RIDDLER
Here are the answers to the rows.
Row 1 – POLO, Row 2 – A–ON, Row 3 – SPA–, Row 4 – TIDE
Here are the answers to the columns:
Column 1 – PAST, Column 2 – O–Pi, Column 3 – LOAD, Column 4 – ON–E

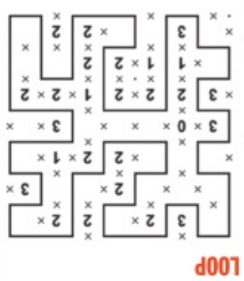
SUDOKU

7	8	4	9	6	5	3	2	1
3	6	5	2	7	1	9	4	8
9	2	1	8	3	4	7	6	5
1	7	8	5	9	6	4	3	2
4	5	9	3	1	2	6	8	7
6	3	2	7	4	8	5	1	9
8	9	7	6	2	3	1	5	4
5	4	6	1	8	9	2	7	3
2	1	3	4	5	7	8	9	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, As, Sea, Sear, Earns, Angers, Oranges.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 6 – 4 – 8 = 1
Medium
4 x 2 x 4 + 5 = 37
Hard
9 – 3 x 4 – 4 = 20

LOOP



KAKURO

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
17 10 15
12 14 16
13 18 11
Magic number 42

QUOTE UNCODE
The first qualification for a historian is to have no ability to invent.

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 # Search on for Julian Sands
The search for film star Julian Sands, best known for 'A Room with a View', pressed on for a sixth day in the snow-covered mountains of Southern California with no sign of the 65-year-old actor

BangaloreMirror | 16
Saturday, January 21, 2023
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

Have a say

Why Nandita Das makes films?

Applause Entertainment and Nandita Das's Zwigato starring Kapil Sharma and Shahana Goswami will hit the big screen on March 17, 2023.

Set in the seldom seen city of Bhubaneswar, Zwigato follows the story of a food delivery rider who grapples with the world of ratings and algorithms. Written and directed by Nandita Das, this highly topical film delves into the lives of 'ordinary people'.

Zwigato had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, Asian premiere at Busan International Film Festival, and its Indian premiere at Kerala International Film Festival.

Speaking exclusively to ETimes, Nandita Das said, "While the story of Zwigato is set in India, I was happy to see how the universality of the theme resonated with the discerning and diverse audience that the Toronto International Film Festival attracts."

About why she made a film about a food-delivery boy Nandita says, "I make films because I itch to say something, and so the more people it reaches, the happier I am. What I am most looking forward to is to show it to the audiences in the country. And to the gig economy workers, whose story it is."

Kriti set to up the glam

Kriti Sanon has had a great run at the box office and with critics alike.

Her roles in Mimi and Bhediya were appreciated. After portraying some trailblazing characters, she will be seen in a glam role in Shehzada also starring Kartik Aaryan.

A friend says, "Kriti tries her best to be versatile and diverse with her roles. She will be now seen in a fresh, breezy role in her upcoming film.

The actress we hear is putting her best fashion foot forward.

The Kriti-Kartik duo is much loved by the audience. After the grand success of Luka Chuppi, they are back with a bang to entertain the viewers. —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

A breakup song

An ophthalmologist will be proving her mettle as a script writer and director. Dr P Shashikala who works at ESI Hospital has penned the lyrics and handled megaphone for a music album Nenapina Haadiyalli Onti Payana that was released at Sri Chamundeswari Studio recently.

"It is a breakup song that conveys a message to youth get depressed or take extreme steps after a breakup. I wrote this song based on some incidents. I wanted to tell the youth that they have to value their parents' love. They should not take extreme measures over heartbreaks," said Dr Shashikala.

She said the song was shot in two days. "I have to thank and appreciate the lead pair – Praveen Tej and Yasha Shivakumar. They were humble and very active during the shooting, she said.

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